



CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know

CivicsEducationInitiative.com

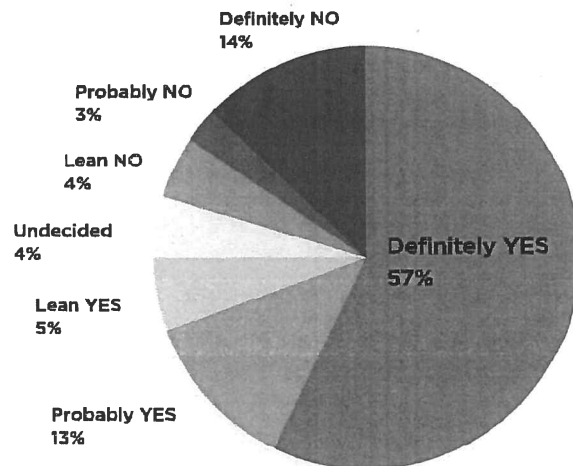
Restoring civics education and ensuring that all high school graduates are ready for active, engaged citizenship.

The **Civics Education Initiative** is simple in concept. It requires high school students, as a condition for graduation, to pass a test on 100 basic facts of U.S. history and civics taken from the United States Citizenship Civics Test – *the test all immigrants applying for U.S. citizenship must pass*. Yet, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, only 24 percent of U.S. high school students are proficient in civics, and studies by the Annenberg Foundation show that a third of U.S. citizens can't name even one branch of our federal government. That's why the Joe Foss Institute created the Civics Education Initiative.

The **Civics Education Initiative** legislation allows individual schools to administer the test in a way the school deems as adequate to ensure the requirements are followed. Students may take the test any time during their high school careers and may take the test as many times as necessary to pass. By using this well-established test and the study materials that are already easily available online and for free, CEI legislation has next to no implementation costs.

Support for the Civics Education Initiative

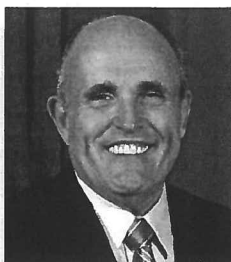
(2014)



	YES	NO	+/- Difference
ALL	74%	21%	+53
Men	78%	19%	+59
Women	71%	24%	+47
Republican	84%	13%	+71
Independent	75%	21%	+54
Democrat	68%	27%	+41
White	76%	20%	+56
Hispanic	76%	22%	+54
African American	60%	32%	+28

The **Civics Education Initiative** is a first step to ensure all students are taught basic civics about how our government works, and who we are as a nation...things every student should know to be ready for active, engaged citizenship.

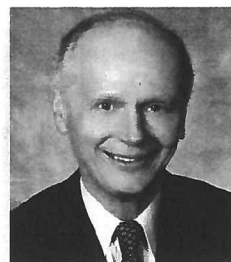
The Civics Education Initiative National Board of Advisors



**The Hon.
Rudolph W. Giuliani**
Former Mayor of New York City



Carl Bernstein
Pulitzer Prize-Winning
Journalist and Author



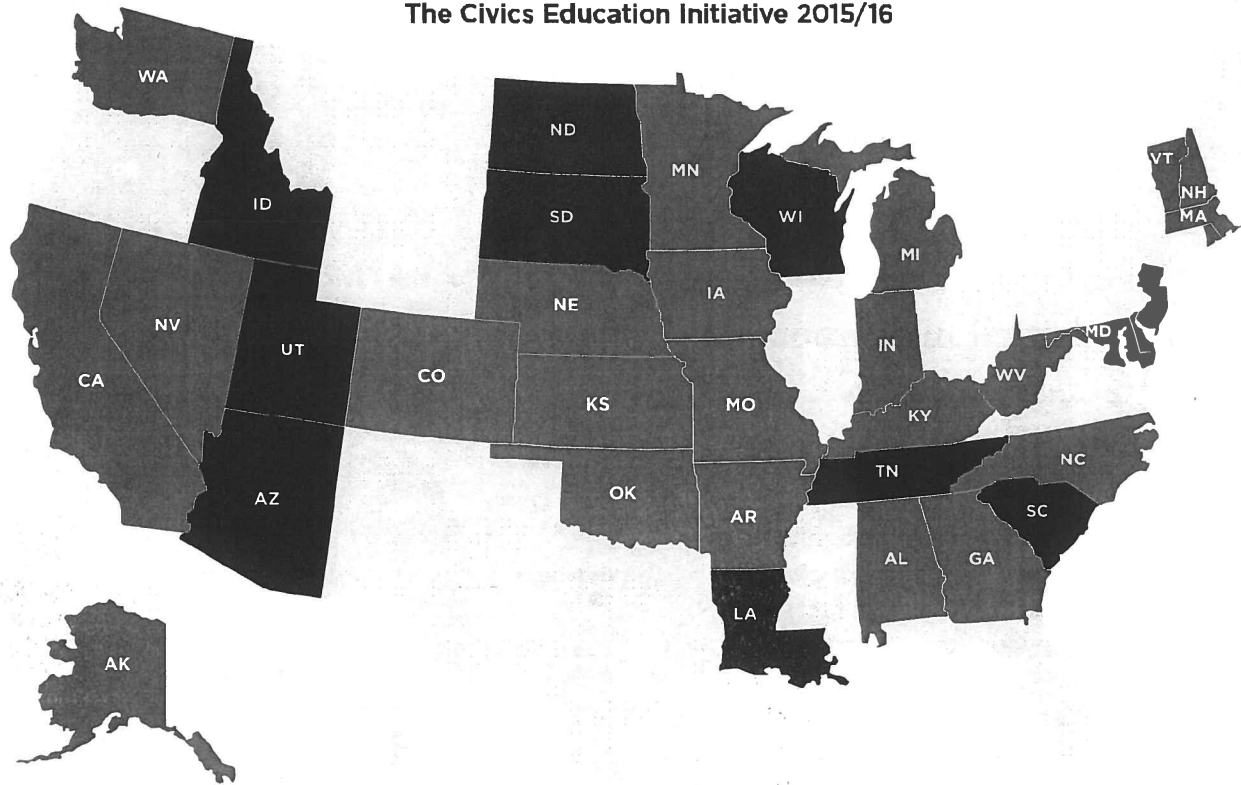
Richard Riley
Former U.S. Secretary
of Education



Joe Mantegna
Award-Winning Actor

(Continued over)

The Civics Education Initiative 2015/16



The **Civics Education Initiative** is sponsored by the Civics Proficiency Institute, an affiliate of the Joe Foss Institute. The goal is to pass legislation in all 50 states by September 17, 2017 – the 230th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution. As of July, 2015 nine states (AZ, ND, SD, UT, ID, TN, SC, LA, WI) have passed CEI legislation.

 **Legislation passed
(as of September 2015)**

 **Proposed states for 2016**

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TAKE THE TEST

The Civics Education Initiative proposes that all high school students take and pass the 100-question US Citizenship Civics test, from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), the test that all new US immigrants must learn.

The full 100-question US Citizenship Civics test is available online. Can you pass the test? Try these questions from the test, in random order, and see how well you do. Multiple choice provided on first 40.

1. What is one reason colonists came to America?

- A. to start a new political party
- B. to gain religious freedom
- C. to join a special society
- D. to learn new farming methods

2. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

- A. provide schooling and education
- B. print and circulate money
- C. declare war
- D. enter into treaties

3. What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?

- A. The president was assassinated.
- B. The US won more Olympic gold medals than ever before.
- C. Terrorists attacked the United States.
- D. A massive earthquake destroyed much of San Francisco.

4. What does the judicial branch do?

- A. enforces laws
- B. reviews attorneys
- C. levies taxes
- D. resolves disputes

5. What does the Constitution do?

- A. enforces separation of church and state
- B. lists the powers of local government
- C. protects basic rights of Americans
- D. designates national holidays

6. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

- A. to decide what time stores open and close
- B. to set and enforce local speed limits
- C. to create and operate police departments
- D. to create and maintain an army and a navy

7. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

- A. World War I
- B. Crimean War
- C. Cold War
- D. Whiskey Rebellion

8. What did Martin Luther King Jr. do?

- A. fought for equality for all Americans
- B. advocated change in government style
- C. argued for violent resistance
- D. fought against racial integration

9. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

- A. The Constitution was written.
- B. Two Founding Fathers were killed in a duel.
- C. There was a huge feast.
- D. A new colony was added.

10. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

- A. avoid the news, join a political party
- B. participate in a political campaign, vote
- C. move to a different country, become a spy
- D. write a political thriller novel, run for office

11. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

- A. made slavery legal throughout America
- B. saved the Union of America's states
- C. led the United States during the Cold War
- D. started the War of Independence

12. Name one right only for United States citizens.

- A. vote in a federal election
- B. drive a motor vehicle
- C. travel to any state in the nation
- D. own a house or apartment

13. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

- A. the right to elect judges
- B. freedom of the press
- C. freedom to get married
- D. the right to education

14. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

- A. The United States
- B. The President
- C. our ancestors
- D. The National Anthem

15. Who does a US Senator represent?

- A. all the people of their city
- B. a hundred people from every town in that state
- C. all people of the state
- D. only those who voted for them

16. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

- A. You can vote for one person as many times as you want.
- B. Only people older than twenty-one (21) can vote.
- C. You must pay a poll tax to vote.
- D. Any citizen (18 and older) can vote.
- E. You need to own a home to vote.

17. What are two cabinet-level positions?

- A. Secretary of Transportation and Attorney General
- B. Speaker of the House and Secretary of Defense
- C. Chief Justice and Secretary of the Interior
- D. Secretary of Architecture and Chief of Staff

18. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

- A. wrote the Constitution
- B. promoted sporting events
- C. invented reading glasses
- D. started the first free libraries

19. Who makes federal laws?

- A. Congress
- B. The Supreme Court
- C. The President
- D. lawyers

20. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

- A. people from Africa
- B. people from Serbia
- C. Jews
- D. Mexicans

21. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

- A. between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)
- B. between sixteen (16) and twenty-two (22)
- C. at age thirty (30)
- D. at age sixteen (16)

22. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

- A. never visit other countries
- B. don't drink and drive
- C. give up loyalty to other countries
- D. only speak English

23. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

- A. to approve land use
- B. to issue driver's licenses
- C. to print money
- D. to hire police officers

24. What is the "rule of law"?

- A. Laws will always exist.
- B. Laws are everywhere.
- C. No one is above the law.
- D. No law is perfect.

25. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

- A. buy firearms
- B. support charities
- C. pay taxes
- D. serve on a jury

26. Why did the colonists fight the British?

- A. because they didn't like their accents
- B. because they were taxed without representation
- C. because the French army stayed in their houses
- D. because they wanted new national flag

27. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

- A. slavery
- B. taxes
- C. land disputes
- D. overpopulation

28. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

- A. because they are more important than others
- B. because they are geographically larger
- C. because they have a larger population
- D. because that state has more resources

29. What is freedom of religion?

- A. You are free to practice a pre-approved religion.
- B. You must practice a religion of your choice.
- C. You are not allowed to practice any religion.
- D. You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

30. There were 13 original states. Name three.

- A. Rhode Island, Washington, Florida
- B. Minnesota, Florida, Georgia
- C. Montana, Louisiana, Arizona
- D. Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia

31. What does the judicial branch do?

- A. make laws that are then signed by the President
- B. enforces laws according to the Constitution
- C. decides if a law goes against the Constitution
- D. appoints new members to Congress

32. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

- A. freedom of speech, right to bear arms
- B. right to be happy, freedom of worship
- C. right to work, freedom to change careers
- D. right to get married, freedom of speech

33. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

- A. ran the Underground Railroad
- B. fought for women's rights
- C. was a famous early American chef
- D. started the Treasury Department

34. What does the Constitution do?

- A. sets rules for voting
- B. enforces the laws
- C. defines the government
- D. describes America

35. What does the president's cabinet do?

- A. stores supplies in case of an attack
- B. keeps the White House clean
- C. writes laws
- D. advises the President

36. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

- A. established the United States Navy
- B. declared our independence (from Great Britain)
- C. announced our independence (from France)
- D. claimed all the land from the Atlantic to Pacific Ocean

41. Who was the first President?

42. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

43. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

44. We elect a President for how many years?

45. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

46. Name one state that borders Mexico.

47. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

48. What is the highest court in the United States?

49. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence? ["_____, _____ and the pursuit of Happiness." Write your answers separated by a comma and space.]

50. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

51. We elect a US Senator for how many years?

52. Who was President during World War I?

53. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

54. What is the name of the national anthem?

55. What is the economic system in the United States?

56. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

57. We elect a US Representative for how many years?

58. Name one state that borders Canada.

59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

60. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful? [One way is that government branches have a system of _____ and balances.]

61. What are the two major political parties in the United States?

62. What is the name of the president of the United States now?

37. What are two cabinet-level positions?

- A. Supreme Court Chief Justice and Secretary of State
- B. Sheriff and Speaker of the House
- C. President of the Senate and Attorney General
- D. Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of State

38. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

- A. World War I
- B. Cold War
- C. Northwest Indian War
- D. Mexican-American War

39. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

- A. There were 50 battles in the Revolutionary War.
- B. George Washington's favorite number was 50.
- C. There is one star for each of the 50 states.
- D. The Revolutionary War lasted 50 weeks.

40. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- A. The stripes represent the original 13 colonies.
- B. Thirteen was considered a lucky number at the time.
- C. They represent the 13 weeks it took colonists to arrive by boat.
- D. That is the number of stripes that fit into the flag's main field.

63. Who did the United States fight in World War II? [Name the 3 countries, separated by a comma and space.]
64. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.
65. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
66. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
67. What is the capital of the United States?
68. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
69. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the US Constitution. Name one of the writers.
70. Who signs bills to become laws?
71. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
72. In what month do we vote for president?
73. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
74. What is the name of the vice president of the United States now?
75. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
76. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
77. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
78. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
79. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
80. Name one US territory.
81. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
82. Name the US war between the North and the South.
83. How many US Senators are there?
84. When do we celebrate Independence Day?
85. If both the president and the vice president can no longer serve, who becomes president?
86. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
87. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States? [Enter one word as your answer.]
88. What is the supreme law of the land?
89. Who vetoes bills?
90. What movement tried to end racial discrimination? [In the 1950's and 1960's]
91. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
92. What is an amendment? (In regards to the Constitution)
93. What is the political party of the president now?
94. What year was the Constitution written?
95. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
96. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
97. Name one branch or part of the government.
98. What are the two parts of the US Congress?
99. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?
100. Who is in charge of the executive branch?



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Civics Education Statistics and Surveys

National Assessments & Test Results

2014 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

- Representative sample comprised of 29,000 eighth graders across the country, in both public and private schools
- Only 18% of students scored at or above proficient in U.S. History.
- Only 27% scored at or above proficient in Geography.
- Only 23% scored at or above proficient in Civics.
- Unfortunately, there has been no significant improvement in test scores in each of the three subjects over the four year period of the study, highlighting the crisis in civics education nationwide.

National Studies & Surveys

Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania – 2014

(telephone survey of 1,416 adults)

- Only 36% of respondents could name all three branches of the U.S. government. Just as many (35%) could not name a single one.
- Only 27% of Americans know it takes a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate to override a presidential veto.
- One in five Americans (21 percent) incorrectly think that a 5-4 Supreme Court decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration.
- Asked which party has the most members in the House of Representatives, 38 percent said they knew the Republicans are the majority, but 17 percent responded the Democrats, and 44 percent reported that they did not know (up from 27 percent who said they did not know in 2011).
- Asked which party controls the Senate, 38 percent correctly said the Democrats, 20 percent said the Republicans, and 42 percent said they did not know (also up from 27 percent who said they did not know in 2011).

Center for the Study of the American Dream at Xavier University in Cincinnati – 2012

(telephone survey of 1,023 native-born Americans that asked 10 questions from the citizenship test)

- 85 percent could not define "the rule of law."
- 75 percent did not know function of the judicial branch.
- 71 percent were unable to identify the Constitution as the "supreme law of the land."
- 63 percent could not name one of their state's U.S. Senators.
- 62 percent did not know the name the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 62 percent could not identify the Governor of their state.
- 57 percent could not define an "amendment."
- Only 44% of those with a high school education or less passed the test

NEWSWEEK – 2011

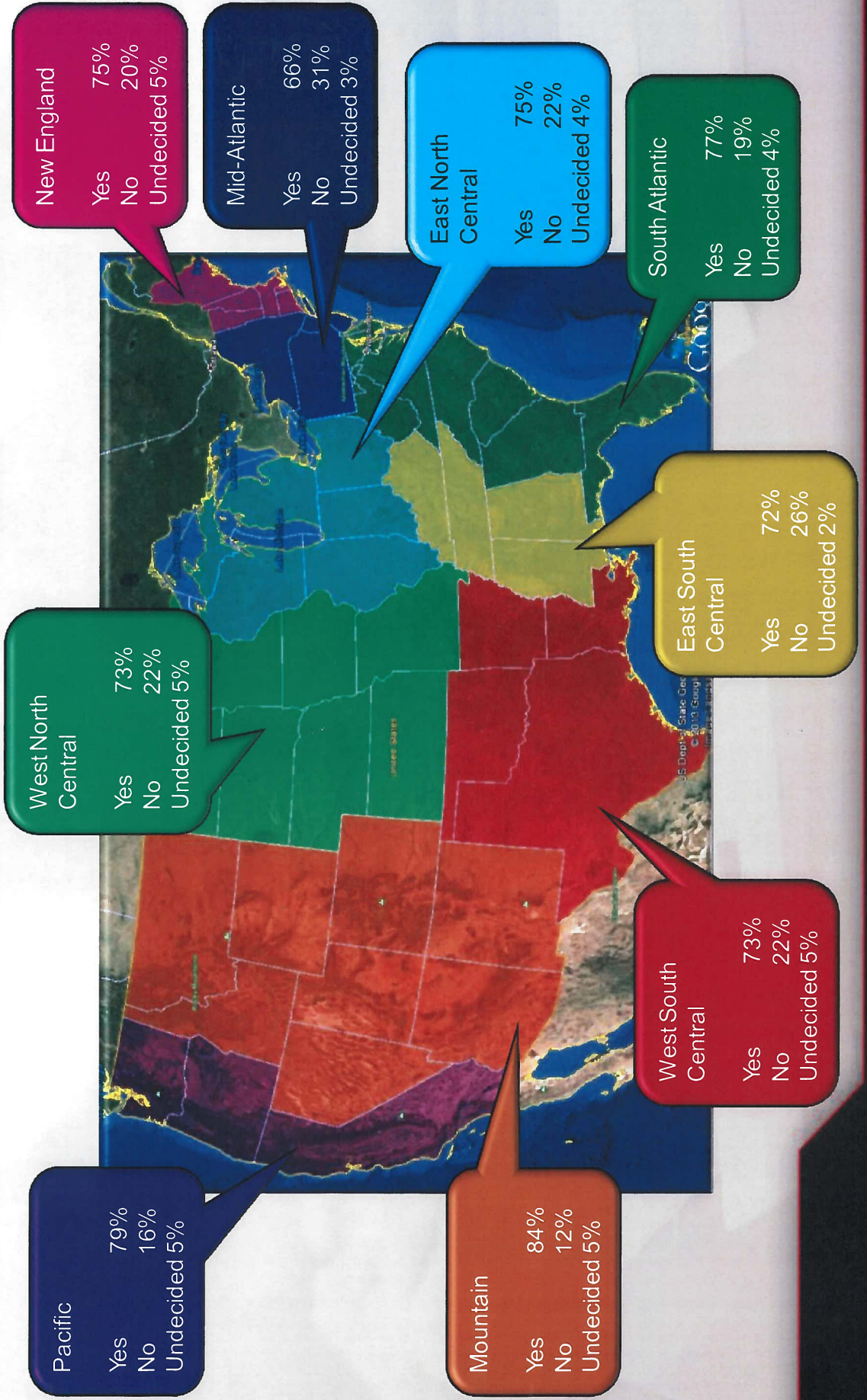
(Asked 1,000 U.S. citizens to take the citizenship test)

- 29% couldn't name the vice president
- 73 % couldn't correctly say why we fought the Cold War
- 44% were unable to define the Bill of Rights
- And 6% couldn't even circle Independence Day on a calendar

Some have proposed that high school students must pass a Civics test in order to graduate.

Would you vote YES or NO on an initiative to require high school students to pass the same Civics exam that all immigrants must pass to become US citizens in order to graduate?

Ballot by Region



If you knew that a legislator from
your state supported a proposal
like this, would you be more likely
or less likely to vote for them?

Legislative Vote by Region

Pacific

More Likely 65%
Less Likely 17%
Undecided 19%

Mountain

61%
More Likely
Less Likely 12%
Undecided 28%

West North Central

More Likely 52%
Less Likely 20%
Undecided 28%

East North Central

More Likely 60%
Less Likely 17%
Undecided 23%

New England

More Likely 62%
Less Likely 17%
Undecided 21%

Mid-Atlantic

51%
More Likely
Less Likely 24%
Undecided 25%

West South Central

More Likely 55%
Less Likely 17%
Undecided 29%

East South Central

More Likely 64%
Less Likely 24%
Undecided 12%

South Atlantic

More Likely 65%
Less Likely 22%
Undecided 13%

